

# Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List Workshop



# Objectives of Workshop

- Provide overview of 303(d) list update process
- Discuss evaluation criteria
- Describe how basis for recommendations will be documented
- Discuss solicitation of information
- Answer Questions

# Overview of 303(d) List Update Process

- Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act requires states to identify surface waters not attaining water quality standards
- First 303(d) list submitted in 1975 and has been updated about every two years since
- Last update completed in 1998

# Overview of 303(d) List Update Process

- Next update due to EPA for approval from State April 1, 2002
- State Board has requested that the Regional Boards solicit information on its behalf and provide recommendations based on evaluation of available information

# Overview of 303(d) List Update Process

- A “Total Maximum Daily Load” (TMDL) must be developed for each listed waterbody/pollutant
- A TMDL and Basin Plan Amendment will be adopted to address the identified surface water quality problem
- Timing of development of the TMDL and Basin Plan Amendment depends on priorities and resources

# Regional Board and State Board 303(d) Update Process

Step	Regional Bd	State Bd
Solicitation Ends	May 15	May 15
Staff Report	August '01	December '01
Public Comment Ends	October '01	February '02
Board Meeting	January '02	March '02
Submit to EPA for Approval		April '02

# Evaluation Criteria

- Data and information submitted will be evaluated relative to the narrative and numeric water quality objectives and beneficial uses in the Regional Board's Basin Plan
- <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb5/files.html>

# Narrative Objectives

- Need to interpret based on available and relevant guidelines and criteria
- Water Quality Goals Compendium  
( [http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb5/wq\\_goals](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb5/wq_goals) )
  - Reference which contains potentially applicable water column criteria
- FDA, NAS, and EPA criteria used to evaluate fish tissue information



# Narrative Objectives

- Sediment and temperature data generally cannot be directly compared to numeric criteria
- Information & data related to sediment and temperature will be compared to findings in peer-reviewed literature, findings in similar settings, and “weight of evidence” from various information sources

# Numeric Water Quality Objectives

- Contained in Basin Plan for specific constituents, water bodies, and/or beneficial uses
- National Toxics Rule – EPA rule which established numeric standards for a number of pollutants in California and other states
- California Toxics Rule – EPA rule which established numeric objectives for 100+ pollutants not part of NTR

# Beneficial Uses

- Major water bodies in the Central Valley Region have designated beneficial uses identified in Basin Plan  
<http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb5/files.html>
- Uses of identified water bodies generally apply to tributaries

# Documentation of Recommendations

- Fact Sheets will be developed for each recommended change to the 303(d) list
- Fact Sheets will provide:
  - rationale for listing/delisting
  - rationale for prioritization
  - basis for extent of impairment determination
  - description of information sources

# Solicitation of Information

- What are we really after?
  - Data/information on the quality of surface waters in the Central Valley
  - Your assessments of that information (if you would like to provide it)
  - Streamlining the evaluation & 303(d) list update process

# Data/Information

- Data or information should be relevant to surface waters – rivers, streams, creeks, lakes, reservoirs, wetlands
- Documentation related to data/information is critical (where, when, who, how)
- Electronic versions and extra copies of data are nice, but not critical
- Referring to, but not providing, readily available reports (e.g. USGS) is o.k.

# Some Questions that Have Been Raised

- Do you need to send us your discharger monitoring reports?
- How will agricultural drains be considered?
- How will drinking water issues be considered?

# Contact Information

- Please send questions to: [303dlist@rb5s.swrcb.ca.gov](mailto:303dlist@rb5s.swrcb.ca.gov)
- Data/Information to:

Joe Karkoski

303(d) List Update Coordinator

California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Central Valley Region

3443 Routier Road, Suite A

Sacramento, CA 95827-3003

- Live person contact: Gene Davis (916) 255-3387